

*Bess Neuberger 5/20/52*

# AMERICAN SCHOOLS OF ORIENTAL RESEARCH

## JERUSALEM AND BAGHDAD

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWSLETTER

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To the Members and Friends of the American Schools.

I have just come from Jerusalem, where I spent ten days with the colleagues and friends at the School, and am at present completing the last leg of a trip that took me also to Baghdad earlier this spring. This provides a basis for a brief report to you on American School affairs generally and this report I am happy to render forthwith. Let me begin by adding to Dr. Reed's interesting account of the year's work at Jerusalem my own observations.

The School year in Jerusalem has been in every respect a most successful one. In the School itself and in the field work has proceeded smoothly and with significant results, due in largest measure to the devotion of all concerned, the academic staff led by Drs. Reed and Tushingham, the Fellows and students and the household and field help. I never cease to admire the way in which those whom we send over as directors, annual professors and fellows, as well as those upon whom we rely so continually as our resident helpers, pitch in with the utmost vigor and self-sacrifice to get things done and to work for us without thought for themselves. It has been this way as far back as I can remember, and this year has added another excellent chapter to the story of the School's achievement.

The joint work at Jericho was a model of intelligent and purposeful co-operation. The biggest share of the credit for this goes to Miss Kathleen Kenyon, who directed the operation and who was able to inspire all her assistants and helpers with a sense of personal loyalty to her while at the same time giving them a feeling of equal participation with her in the planning and execution of the work. Some part of the credit goes to the members of the School staff-especially Dr. Tushingham who acted as second in command-for their knowledge of what team-work and co-operation mean and require. Some part, too, goes to Drs. Detweiler and Reed who in advance of the operation worked out a clear blue-print with Miss Kenyon for the joint venture.

In Dr. Tushingham's company I was able recently to inspect the work done on the tell and the objects from the excavation in the Amman Museum. Considering the funds available a large quantity of earth was moved and deep trenches and soundings were made, all of which yielded significant results. Especially important, of course, as previously reported, was the light thrown on the development of the site in the Bronze Age, down to the remarkable arch in the EBI level, and the almost complete absence of indications of occupation in the period of the Israelite Conquest. Equally important were the remains of the Neolithic and Chalcolithic period and the magnificent Bronze Age Tomb groups that came to light in the area to the north of the tell.

The date of my arrival at Jerusalem coincided with a lecture delivered by Père de Vaux at the Ecole Biblique on the excavations conducted by the Dominicans and the Department of Antiquities in the Murabat caves. The pottery and the manuscript

material discovered there, are both of outstanding importance, the latter in providing first-hand information about the Bar Kochaba Revolt and the former, in view of its association with datable written documents, in clarifying the ceramic chronology as it effects also the material from the Dead Sea Scroll cave. The attribution of the Dead Sea Scrolls can now proceed with much more certainty as to their palaeographic and ceramic contexts.

No less important was the work done by the School and the Dominican Fathers in the Qumrān caves, where the bronze rolls already reported upon by Prof. Detweiler were found. I had the opportunity of examining these unique objects through the courtesy of Yussuf Sa'ad, Secretary of the Palestine Archaeological Museum and was greatly impressed by their size and weight. Bronze plates of this type, with large characters, were used in antiquity to record treaties and to present to public view ordinances, laws, grants of privileges enjoyed by communities. We read about them in Polybius and Josephus. Whether these objects represent such official documents of a state nature, removed from their public settings for preservation and rolled up to permit storage, remains to be seen after the difficult problem of unrolling them has been solved. Even now it is evident that the School by its joint effort with the Ecole Biblique has added in its own right to the knowledge of the period of the Second Temple material whose importance rivals if it does not exceed that of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

During my visit I was able also to visit the excavations at Dhiban proceeding under the direction of Dr. Reed. A full report on the results of the work is promised by Dr. Reed in a newsletter planned for June, after the completion of this year's campaign. Work is under way in two areas. On the tell it is the southern end of the mound where activities are concentrated. Here it had been decided to look for a city gate placed, perhaps, between the Roman temple at the south east corner and what seems to be a tower near the south west corner. Work has proceeded through Arab and Byzantine levels, where again as in last year's work on the east side a well built private house has come to light, and in certain parts/cut excavations are being carried into Nabatean and Iron Age levels, which have already produced, besides pottery remains, elements of strong defensive walls that need to be tied in ultimately with those along the east side of the tell. Off the tell a search for tombs is going on and one fair-sized single-chamber tomb has been cleared, set into the hillside of the wadi north of the tell on the same level and right alongside that studied by Dr. Scott last year. The work here is under the direction of Dr. Tushingham and a good collection of Moabite pottery as well as a well-preserved baked-clay coffin, its lid decorated with a face in the tradition of the ~~arch~~ anthropoid sarcophagi, have been found.

At the School itself, during the absence of most of the male population on digs, matters are being administered ably by Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Tushingham, who not only lend to the establishment their social graces but also keep the business and library affairs of the School under close surveillance. The resident staff, especially Omar, Imran, Mahmud, Melia and Benny (Christaki) have been exemplary in the faithful performance of their duties in the kitchen, the garage, the garden, the hostel and the field and by their loyalty under the kindly and intelligent direction of Dr. and Mrs. Reed, have given us all ample opportunity for commending them and appreciating their help and attitude.

It was pleasant indeed to see at the School and working hard in the field at Dhiban, our Fellow, Mr. Gus van Beek and as a student Dr. Ed. Broome. It was like old times, also, to meet there again as last year, Dr. and Mrs. Free of Wheaton College. Several members of the British group that had worked at Jericho were still in residence when I arrived.

In the course of a sojourn of several weeks at Baghdad, I had the pleasure, once more, of enjoying close personal contact with Dr. Naji al-Asil, Director of the Department of Antiquities, and with the members of his staff. The Director was favorably impressed by the work done under American School auspices and under the supervision of Dr. Braidwood by Dr. Bruce Howe at Karim Shahr and Palegawra last year, and was duly informed of the impending visit of Dr. Alexander Heidel as Annual Professor of the Baghdad School for 1952-53. The difficulty of finding adequate working space for such visitors as Dr. Heidel is accentuated by the expected arrival of Fulbright appointees, should appointments in the field of Assyriology be made. We still need ~~to~~ to develop in Iraq a proper base for our activities in the field and in the Museum.

At home, during my absence, School affairs have been in charge of Drs. Albright and Speiser, as First and Second Vice-Presidents respectively, and to them hot many thanks are due for keeping the wheels turning and our affairs in good order. I expect to return to Chicago in mid-June after a trip which, in giving me ample opportunity to know the over-seas work of the Schools at first hand, will make it possible for me to serve them and you the better.

Cordially,

Carl H. Kraeling.

President.